(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) Improvement is a continuous process. To make NCC training more effective, adventure activities like mountaineering, para-sailing, white water rafting, microlite aircraft flying and scuba diving have been extended to a large number of cadets.

Agreement with Israel regarding weapon system

1054. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agreement has been reached between India and Israel to invest 100 million dollar in the development of Arrow II weapon system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the defence agreement signed between two countries during last three years; and

(d) the amount involved in these deals?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) India have been signing agreements with Israel for defence equipments. It is not in the interest of national security to disclose such matters on the Floor of the House.

Lack of storage facilities for explosives

†1055. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news-item captioned, "Daid lakh tonne gola barud rakhne ki vyavastha nahin" which appeared in the media recently;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether this problem has been caused due to the increasing incidents of fire in Ordnance depots; and

(d) if so, what remedial steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The problem of inadequate covered accommodation cannot be attributed entirely to the incidents of fire in ammunition/ordnance depots. The problem has been addressed and adequate measures have been taken to provide permanent storage accommodation. As a consequence of the efforts to construct storage accommodation in the last two years, the ammunition lying under tentage and canvas has been reduced from 1.5 lakh MT to 0.9 lakh MT. The work sanctioned in the financial year 2000-2001 and year 2001-2002 is expected to be completed by year 2003-2004 and year 2004-2005 respectively. This will add approximately 1.5 lakh MT of ammunition storage accommodation. With this the entire stock of ammunition lying in the open under canvas and tentage as well as some of the ammunition lying under temporary accommodation will be brought under permanent covered accommodation.

Upgrading skills of NCC cadets

1056. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds released to various States and Union Territories particularly to Andhra Pradesh for National Cadet Corps;

(b) whether Government have started new schemes/programmes to upgrade the skills of NCC cadets in view of the development in recent years in arms and warfare technics to improve defence preparedness of the nation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the details of such programmes proposed to be introduced by Government for NCC cadets, especially in the field of defence related information technology?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) A statement showing details of funds released to Directorates of NCC concerned with various States and Union Territories including Andhra Pradesh for National Cadet Corps is given in the enclosed